

Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2019

6:00 PM

Clarendon County Council

Those in attendance:

Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman Billy G. Richardson
Councilman Benton Blakely
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Vice Chairman W.J. Frierson
Councilman AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson

Press in attendance: The Manning Times, Johnny Weeks

Others in attendance included:

Lynden Anthony	Cherron Ragin	Brad Gerfin	Robert Collar	Taylor Fall
Pat & Barbara Goodwin	Betty Phillips	Mary Alice Ipock	Catherine Alsbrook	Diana Green
Michael A. Johnson	Ethel B. Marshall	Patricia Pringle	John Tindal	Phillis Adger
Nehemiah Conyers	Laura Fleming	Robert Pegram	Kim Johnson	Lisa Justice
Charlotte Johnston	Jennifer Powell	John Bonaparte	Connie Dennis	Amanda Linder
Barbara H. Richburg	Linda Lemon	Tammy Rodvansky	Phillis Adger	And other

Clarendon County Residents

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. Vice Chairman Frierson led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

1. Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the agenda for May 13, 2019.

2. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Council Meeting, which was held on April 8, 2019.

3. Service Awards Recognition

Prior to the business session of the Regular Council Meeting, Chairman Stewart, Administrator Epperson, and Linda Lemon, Director of Human Resources, presented two employees with service awards. The awards were presented as listed:

- Patrick Goodwin 5 Years
- Phyllis Adger 20 Years

4. Proclamations:

Chairman Stewart read two proclamations:

- EMS - This Proclamation proclaimed the week of May 19-25, 2019, as Emergency Medical Services

Week and Chairman Stewart acknowledged all emergency personnel that attended.

- WEAAD – This Proclamation proclaimed June 15, 2019 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Clarendon County.

5. Presentations to the State Basketball Championship winners from Clarendon County

- Chairman Stewart presented a Proclamation to the Scott's Branch High School Eagles, Girls Basketball Team, for winning the State Championship for the first time in the History of Scott's Branch High School.
- Chairman Stewart presented a Proclamation to the Clarendon Hall Saints, Boys Basketball Team, for winning the State Championship for the first time in the History of Clarendon Hall.

6. Ordinance 2019-01

On motion by Councilman Blakely and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 2019-01, An Ordinance of the County Council of Clarendon County South Carolina to Amend the County's Official Zoning Map Designation for Tax Map Parcel #185-00-03-003-00; From Performance Zone (PZ) to Agriculture II (AGII) and Providing an Effective Date.

7. Presentation of Proposed FY2019-2020 Budget

Mr. Anthony began his presentation by stating that Act 388, passed in 2006, has capped the amount of increase allowed in millage rates. The budget that we are submitting for Second Reading contains the State allowed millage increase of 2.44% for County operations. He continued by stating that we have increased revenues by \$230,000 since first reading; a result of anticipated increases in ad valorem revenue, the addition of the proposed sale of the old DSS building and increases in State funding.

Mr. Anthony continued by stating that the 2% COLA increase for County Employees is still in the budget. He continued by stating that there is an increase in employer health insurance premiums effective January 1st. Through Council and Administrator Epperson's input, we were able to reduce expenses by about \$121,000 since first reading. The package before you does not reflect a balanced budget and currently has a deficit of \$294,477 and includes a Local Option Sales Tax credit to our taxpayers of \$2.6 million.

Mr. Anthony stated that at this point the total General Fund operational expenditures is \$22,070,433; an increase of about 3.67% over the current year budget. With regards to the Fire service, the budget before you contains an increase of four (4) mils. Additionally, we are requesting that the Fire service utilize \$225,000 in available fund balance to be used toward the construction of the new Wyboo sub-station. With anticipated expenses of \$3,643,608, the Fire service budget is essentially in balance.

In terms of intra-fund transfers, we are requesting that the Hospitality Fee Fund maintain its level of operational support of \$50,000 for Weldon Auditorium; and an additional \$37,000 from the General Fund for the same purpose.

Mr. Anthony Continued by stating that we would like to include in our request a \$2 Million TAN be approved in the event it becomes necessary for cash flow purposes. We are also requesting to borrow an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in the form of a five-year capital lease, primarily for the purchase and equipping of new vehicles (law enforcement and public works) and equipment for the landfill. However, we have also received a request from McLeod Health Clarendon of the need for a new ambulance. Therefore, we are increasing our request for a capital lease to \$500,000.

Mr. Anthony further stated that there are no changes to our Enterprise fund budget for Weldon Auditorium from the first reading but we have modified the Water system budget to reflect anticipated revenue increases associated with the proposed rate increases.

Mr. Anthony Concluded his presentation by giving Council the following expenses:

General Fund	\$ 22,070,433
General County Debt	1,156,992
FE Debose Vocational Technical College	240,000
Fire Operating	3,643,608
Fire Debt	105,163
Administration Complex Debt Service	489,216
Courthouse Debt Service	<u>261,800</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 27,967,212
Water & Sewer (operational expense)	590,656
Weldon Auditorium (operational expense)	124,000

Mr. Anthony Concluded his presentation by stating that as of second reading, we have a preliminary General Fund budget that is out of balance by \$294,477.

1. **Dr. Michael Mikota**, President of Central Carolina Technical College (CCTC), began his presentation by recognizing the board members that were present. He stated that there were 644 graduates from Central Carolina in 2019 and 68 of those graduates were from Clarendon County. He continued by stating that there were 2 students from Manning High school who graduated with an Associate Degree and 6 students from East Clarendon who graduated with an Associate Degree. Dr. Mikota continued by stating that Central Carolina College Nursing program ranked 6 in the Country. He continued by stating that Central Carolina now has a mascot which is the Central Carolina Titans. He concluded his presentation by stating that there were 108 students from Clarendon County who went through the Scholar's Program with free tuition.

2. **Mrs. Barbara Champagne**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 1, began her presentation by recognizing all the board members that were present. She continued by giving Council an update on Clarendon District One's goal for focusing on the whole child and building capacity. She concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon School District 1 has 751 scholars, security cameras at all schools and renovation have been done to improve the buildings.

Ms. Jatana Norris, Interim Finance Director, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 1 has a balanced budget. She stated that no expenses are being paid out of Fund Balance. She continued by stating that Clarendon 1 is proposing a 5% increase to all district employees to be in line with other district salaries. Ms. Norris concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon 1 will like to have the option to borrow from Fund Balance if it becomes necessary.

- Chairman Stewart thanked the Superintendent, Board Members and everyone for all that they do.
- Councilman Richardson thanked Mrs. Champagne, her staff, and the Board Members for what they do for Clarendon School District One.

3. **Mr. John Tindal**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 2, began his presentation by recognizing all Board Members that were present. He stated that at Clarendon District 2, 50% of students earned college credits. Mr. Tindal continued by stating that Manning Elementary School has 13 classrooms that are in the STEM program. He stated that Manning High School has an Engineering Program and Manning Elementary has a FFA program. Mr. Tindal concluded his presentation by stating that this is the 2nd year for the Monarch Academy.

Ms. Kathy Williams, Finance Director, began her report by stating that Clarendon 2 is requesting a 4% salary increase for teachers. She continued by stating that Clarendon District 2 is requesting a 1.87%

millage Increase. Ms. Williams concluded by stating that Clarendon District 2 is not requesting a Tax Anticipation Note for this budget year.

- Councilman English thanked Mr. Tindal and Ms. Williams for all that they have done for Clarendon District 2 over the years.
- Vice Chairman Frierson thanked everyone for outstanding work in Clarendon District 2 and he said that he is proud to be Monarch.

4. **Dr. Connie Dennis**, Superintendent of Clarendon School District 3, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 had 6 students graduated from Central Carolina Technical College with an Associate Degree. She continued by stating that Clarendon School District 3 has moved up to a 2A school with 1,253 students. Dr. Dennis continued by stating that Clarendon 3 partnered with FE Dubose and South Carolina Department of Education and Clarendon 3 has grown 5.8% over the last 4 years.

Ms. Laura Fleming, Financial Director, began her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 certified teaching staff would get a 4% salary increase. She stated that all other employees would get a 1% salary increase and the bus driver's salary schedule would increase from \$7.92 to \$10.25 per hour. Ms. Fleming continued her presentation by stating that Clarendon District 3 has paid off the last Bond Payment and is completely Debt Free. She concluded her presentation by stating that Clarendon 3 is asking for a millage increase of 2.4%.

- Councilman Blakely stated that Clarendon 3 has an all-star team doing a great job. Great Board Members, Great Booster Club and the 2nd highest taxes in the State. He stated that the base student cost should be funded at the level set by the state.

Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for all that they do.

5. **Ms. Rachel Gainey**, McLeod Health Clarendon, began her presentation by stating that EMS quality performance expectations are being met in a cost efficient manner. She stated that EMS responded to 5,480 calls in 2017 and Annualized calls for 2018 is 5,721. Ms. Gainey continued by stating that the projected annual volume growth responses is 4%, the projected volume growth in transports is 9%, and the arrival time is within 15 minutes 80% of the time.

Mr. Brad Gerfin, Director of EMS, began his presentation by giving Council an update on improvement recommendations. He stated that the hospital will institute a Move Up Plan when only two ambulances are available. He stated that this would add a 4-minute advantage. Mr. Gerfin continued by stating that they will create a performance dashboard that shows response, turn-around time, and quality of satisfied patients. He continued his presentation by stating that they will formalize a joint disaster plan with county and neighboring counties and agencies. Mr. Gerfin concluded his presentation by stating that we need to improve our response time, but it's hard to improve that with only 4 ambulances (171 square miles per ambulance) compared to Florence County which has 10 to 11 ambulances (80 square miles per ambulance). Fifteen minutes response time is not good enough for us. We need more ambulances than what we have.

Mr. Paul Shumaker, McLeod Health Clarendon, began his presentation by stating that their operating expenses are in line with their volume. He stated that the EMS supply cost decreased by 20%. Mr. Shumaker continued by stating that their benefits expense budgeted decreased by 1.7%. We are trying to be efficient as we can, a lot of our calls are self-paid, and we struggle with collections. The McCloud Foundation purchased three ambulances back in 2016. We are asking for an increase in subsidy of \$150,000 for this fiscal year.

Chairman Stewart stated that he knows how important the hospital and EMS are to the county and what you all do for the county does not go unnoticed.

8. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2019-02

Chairman Stewart stated that the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-02 - An Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019,

and Ending June 30, 2020, to Direct the Expenditures of Said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for other Matters related thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020 was now open. The Public Hearing Opened at 8:07 pm

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments, hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close.

The public hearing closed at 8:08 pm.

9. Ordinance 2019-02

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance #2019-02, an Ordinance to Provide for a Levy of Taxes for County Purposes of Clarendon County, SC., for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019, and Ending June 30, 2020, to Direct the Expenditures of Said Taxes and Other Funds for Clarendon County, and to Provide for other Matters related thereto Including the Administrative Accountability Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the Budget (Operating and Capital) for Clarendon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020.

10. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2019-03

Administrator Epperson stated that this Ordinance would increase the Water and Sewer Service Fees. He stated that ten years ago, the County got into the Water and Sewer Business and since that time we have expanded to other areas. These expansions were funded through grants and loans and the cost of these expansions have increase but the fee for Water and Sewer services has not changed in ten years. Presently the monthly rate for unmetered usage is \$29.50, with this increase the monthly rate would be \$34.50. He continued by stating that metered usage monthly rate shall be adjusted such that the first 2000 gallons shall be billed at current rate of \$25.75 and all above 2000 gallons shall be billed at \$6.25 per 1,000 gallons.

Administrator Epperson continued by stating that upon the adoption of this ordinance, all water customers served by the Clarendon County Water and Sewer Department shall be assessed a \$2.00 monthly charge for fire hydrant maintenance, all residential and commercial sewer rates shall be increased annually in January, and all Home Owners repair Agreement fee shall be increased to \$8.34 per month or \$100 per year or there would not be a new agreement.

Chairman Stewart stated that the public hearing for Ordinance 2019-03 - An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No. 2010-09 (Previously Amended by Ordinance 2014-02), The Clarendon County Water and Sewer Department Code of Regulations and Other Matters Related Thereto was now open.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:13 pm

Chairman Stewart asked if there were any comments, hearing none, he stated that the public hearing will close. The public hearing closed at 8:14 pm.

11. Ordinance 2019-03

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-03, An Ordinance to Amend Clarendon County Ordinance No. 2010-09 (Previously Amended by Ordinance 2014-02), The Clarendon County Water and Sewer Department Code of Regulations and Other Matters Related Thereto.

12. Ordinance 2019-04

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, presented Council with Ordinance 2019-04 – An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Not Exceeding, in the Aggregate, \$1,800,000 in General Obligation Bonds, in One or More

Series, Tax-Exempt or Taxable to be used to Fund One or More Capital Projects; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing of the Acceptance of any Grants and Other Funds Related to the Capital Projects Related to the Bonds; and Other Related Matters. Mr. Anthony concluded by stating that one Capital Project would include Landfill roof replacement.

On motion by Councilman English and Seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted Unanimous Approval to the First Reading of Ordinance 2019-04 –An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Not Exceeding, in the Aggregate, \$1,800,000 in General Obligation Bonds, in One or More Series, Tax-Exempt or Taxable to be used to Fund One or More Capital Projects; Authorizing the County Administrator to Prescribe the Form and Details of the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds of the Bonds; Providing for borrowing in Anticipation of the Issuance of the Bonds; Providing for the Acceptance of any Grants and Other Funds Related to the Capital Projects Related to the Bonds; and Other Related Matters.

13. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony, CFO, began his report by stating the following:

- **The General Fund** had Expenditures of \$1,768,911 and Revenue figures were not available as of April 30, 2019.
- **Water and Sewer Department** had Revenue of \$612,546 for the month ending April 30, 2019 and total Expenses were \$427,399. He stated that after depreciation, Bond interest expense, Interest Income, and Net Transfers, the Water and Sewer Department had Net Utility Loss of \$173,961.
- **Weldon Auditorium** had Revenue of \$18,249 for the month ending April 30, 2019 and total Expenses were \$95,945. He stated that the Weldon Auditorium ended the month of April 2019 after transfers with a deficit of \$27,696.
- **The C-Fund Program** for the month of April 2019 had a Cash Balance of \$2,254,830 of which \$1,154,745 has been committed to remaining local paving projects, State Construction Projects in Progress and State Proviso Funds. He stated that the C-Fund Program had an Uncommitted Balance of \$1,100,085 as of the end of April 2019.

14. Administrator's Report

Administrator Epperson began his report by giving Council an update on the following projects:

- **USDA Phase II** – Work is continuing as planned. Customers are continuing to be brought on line as sections are completed and testing is approved by DHEC.
- **Clarendon County Landfill** – The process to begin closure of the current landfill-dumping cell and the opening of the new dumping cell had begun. A pre-construction meeting was held last week and we anticipate receiving bids on the project soon.
- **County Fire Department-(Wyboo Station)** – Work is continuing as planned.
- **Road Paving**
 1. 75% C-Funds (County Portion) – Work on Bethlehem Group paving should begin very soon, All other projects are completed, and punch list items are being reviewed and completed.
 2. 25% C-Funds (State Portion) – George Harvin Road and Ram Bay Road projects have been complete.
 3. New Roads – Proposed paving projects for the upcoming year are being reviewed by our engineer for pricing and will be presented for approval once we receive the engineer's report.

Misc

1. County Offices will be closed on May 27, 2019 in Observance of Memorial Day.
2. Our annual employee picnic will be on June 6, 2019 from 12 pm to 2 pm at the Clarendon County Fire Department Station 1 in Manning.
3. June 8, 2019 will be our annual employee trash pick-up day. We will be picking up trash

- Within the Ram Bay Industrial Park and surrounding area.
4. Chief Frances Richbourg retired on May 1st and Michael Johnson is the Interim Fire Chief.

15. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart recognized all visitors and he thanked everyone for attending the Council Meeting.

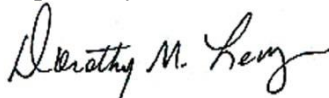
16. Adjournment

Chairman Stewart stated that we have exhausted our agenda and he asked for a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and Seconded by Councilman English, Council voted Unanimous Approval to adjourn the Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council, CCC

